

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-19 and 21-24. Claims 1-19 and 21-24 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 23 were amended. Claim 20 was cancelled in a previous amendment. Claims 21 and 24 were previously presented.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,006,498).

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson (U.S. Patent No. 5,568,362).

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson.

Claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Ehrenfels (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,129).

Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,966).

Claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of English et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,233).

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Thiede.

Claims 21 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Erickson (U.S. Patent No. 3,659,319).

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede.

Theide “relates to a cover for an air conditioner and is concerned primarily with a cover designed to afford adequate protection for the air conditioner during periods of nonuse, but which may be readily operated or shifted into an open position during those periods when the air conditioner is in use” (col. 1, ll. 9-14). “An air conditioner is, of course, used only during the warmer seasons; yet, as a practical matter they remain installed the entire year around. Thus during periods of nonuse there is no protection for the outwardly projection portion, and there is danger of dirt, rain, sleet, or other foreign matter entering into the air ports” (col. 1, ll. 22-27). If cables enter or exit air conditioner cover C through an opening defined by top wall 10, columns 12, 13, and bottom crosspiece 33, as alleged by the Examiner, protective panel P would not close completely, thereby exposing the air conditioner to the environment and otherwise rendering it unprotected. Consequently, Theide does not contemplate cables entering or exiting air conditioner cover C.

Alternatively, if Theide contemplates cables entering or exiting air conditioner cover C, Theide does not contemplate the cables rotating about top wall 10 when protective panel P is opened and closed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables.” As described above, Theide does not contemplate cables entering or exiting air conditioner cover C. Theide does not teach “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to recite “a pivot point adjacent the cutout ... wherein the cutout allows the plurality of cables to rotate about the pivot point when the cabinet is moved from a closed position to an open position.” As described above, if Theide contemplates cables entering or exiting air conditioner cover C, Theide does not contemplate the cables rotating

about top wall 10 when protective panel P is opened and closed. Thiede does not teach “a pivot point adjacent the cutout ... wherein the cutout allows the plurality of cables to rotate about the pivot point when the cabinet is moved from a closed position to an open position.” as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede has been overcome, and that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1. As described above, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede has been overcome, and that claim 3 is also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede has been overcome, and that claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejections of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson.

Hansson “relates to a cabinet for housing electronic equipment for process control and monitoring of machines or power tools for performing operations” (col. 1, ll. 9-11). The cabinet includes a central casing 10 and a backdoor 13 (fig. 2). The central casing 10 includes a connector chamber 16 (fig. 2). “All cables 18 enter the connector chamber 16 via [cable] openings 20 ... and are secured to a tie bracket 23 mounted inside the central casing 10” (col. 2, ll. 11-14). “Due to the fact that the cable openings 20 are small enough just to let through the cables 18, and that the cables

18 are secured to the tie bracket 23 in the central casing 10, it is not possible to disconnect the connector plugs 19 without opening the backdoor 13” (col. 2, ll. 25-29). Consequently, Hansson describes cable openings 20, each of which is adapted to receive only one of the cables 18 (fig. 2). Additionally, Hansson describes ties 23, each of which is adapted to enclose only one of the cables 18 (fig. 2).

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables.” As described above, Hansson describes cable openings 20, each of which is adapted to receive only one of the cables 18. Hansson does not teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables.” as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Additionally, claim 11 has been amended to recite “a cable management ring ... adapted to enclose the plurality of cables.” As described above, Hansson describes ties 23, each of which is adapted to enclose only one of the cables 18. Hansson does not teach or suggest “a cable management ring ... adapted to enclose the plurality of cables.” as recited in claim 11.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson have been overcome, and that claims 1 and 11 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 19, and 23 depend from independent claims 1 or 11. As described above, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson have been overcome, and that claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 19, and 23 are also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson have been overcome, and that claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Ehrenfels.

Ehrenfels describes a housing for a switched electrical receptacle or the like. However, Ehrenfels does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson. Specifically, Ehrenfels does not teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Moreover, a combination of Hansson and Ehrenfels similarly fails to teach or suggest elements of the present claims. As described above, none of Hansson and Ehrenfels teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that a combination of Hansson and Ehrenfels does not teach or suggest elements of the present claims.

Claims 2 and 12 depend from independent claims 1 and 11, respectively. As described above, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Ehrenfels has been overcome, and that claims 2 and 12 are also in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Nelson.

Nelson describes an electric cabinet having a door stop. However, Nelson does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson. Specifically, Nelson does not teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Moreover, a combination of Hansson and Nelson similarly fails to teach or suggest elements of the present claims. As described above, none of Hansson and Nelson teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that a combination of Hansson and Nelson does not teach or suggest elements of the present claims.

Claims 5 and 15 depend from independent claims 1 and 11, respectively. As described above, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Nelson has been overcome, and that claims 5 and 15 are also in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of English.

English describes a mounting brace and cable management apparatus and method. However, English does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson. Specifically, English does not teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Moreover, a combination of Hansson and English similarly fails to teach or suggest elements of the present claims. As described above, none of Hansson and English teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that a combination of Hansson and English does not teach or suggest elements of the present claims.

Claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 or 11. As described above, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of English has been overcome, and that claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 are also in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Thiede.

A combination of Hansson and Theide fails to teach or suggest elements of the present claims. As described above, none of Hansson and Theide teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that a combination of Hansson and Nelson does not teach or suggest elements of the present claims.

Claim 13 depends from independent claim 11. As described above, independent claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Theide has been overcome, and that claim 13 is also in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Erickson.

Erickson relates to an adhesive wire routing clip. However, Erickson does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson. Specifically, Erickson does not teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claim 11.

Moreover, a combination of Hansson and Erickson similarly fails to teach or suggest elements of the present claims. As described above, none of Hansson and Erickson teach or suggest “a cutout ... adapted to receive a plurality of cables,” as recited in independent claim 11. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that a combination of Hansson and Erickson does not teach or suggest elements of the present claims.

Claims 21 and 24 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 11. As described above, independent claim is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Erickson has been overcome, and that claims 21 and 24 are also in condition for allowance.

The Applicants note that dependent claims 2, 12, and 23 have been amended to conform to the amendments of independent claims 1 or 11.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19 and 21-24 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

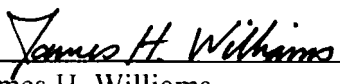
The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants may be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Attorney for Applicants at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 16-0228.

Respectfully submitted.

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